

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04670 01 OF 02 211244Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

HA-05 /071 W

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P R 210850Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6986

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

USMISSION USNATO

USDOCOSOUTH INTAF

USCINCEUR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 4670

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YO

SUBJ: TITO, KARDELJ OPEN 11TH PARTY CONGRESS

REF: ZAGREB 547

SUMMARY: 11TH CONGRESS OF LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS OF YUGOSLAVIA

(LCY) OPENED JUNE 20. WE SHRINK FROM ISSUING MEDICAL BULLETINS,

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 04670 01 OF 02 211244Z

BUT BOTH TITO AND KARDELJ APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH

CONSIDERING THEIR AGE AND REPORTED CONDITION. TITO DELIVERED

A 55-MINUTE REPORT WHOSE CLEAR THRUST WAS TO REAFFIRM

YUGOSLAVIA'S INDEPENDENCE AND UNSWERVING ADHERENCE TO GOALS OF

SELF-MANAGEMENT AND NON-ALIGNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OPENING OF 11TH LCY CONGRESS ON JUNE 20 TITO APPEARED A

BIT UNSTEADY WHILE STANDING BRIEFLY AFTER ENTERING THE CONGRESS HALL, BUT OTHERWISE LOOKED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH, MUCH BETTER THAN AT HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCE ON MAY 25 YOUTH DAY. HE SAT THROUGH KARDELJ'S LONG INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, THEN ROSE SMARTLY AND MOVED TO THE PODIUM FOR HIS REPORT. SEATED, HE WENT ON WITH LITTLE EVIDENT LOSS OF GUSTO FOR 55 MINUTES. HIS READING WAS UNUSUALLY CLEAR, ONLY OCCASIONALLY LAPSING INTO MUMBLING OR HESITATION. TOWARDS THE END OF THE SPEECH HE OCCASIONALLY BROKE FROM THE PREPARED TEXT TO MAKE SOME BRIEF AD-LIBBED COMMENTS OF HIS OWN; HE ALSO FROM TIME TO TIME ACKNOWLEDGED HE WAS SKIPPING PORTIONS OF THE PREPARED TEXT.

2. KARDELJ'S APPEARANCE ALSO BELIED EARLIER RUMOR THAT HE MIGHT BE AT DEATH'S DOOR (REFTEL, PARA 4). SPEAKING CLEARLY AND FIRMLY, HE PRESIDED OVER ONE-HOUR OPENING CEREMONIES, INCLUDING DELIVERY OF A LONG WELCOME TO VISITORS LISTING ALL THE 130-ODD FOREIGN DELEGATES BY NAME AND TITLE. HE ALSO HANDLED A NUMBER OF PROCEDURAL MATTERS WHICH COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN DELEGATED.

3. SUBSTANTIVELY TITO'S ORAL REPORT (HE DELIVERED ONLY EXCERPTS FROM A MUCH LONGER 72-PAGE REPORT WHICH IS BEING PUBLISHED) CONTAINED NOTHING REMARKABLE, STRESSING THE CONTINUITY, CORRECTNESS AND SUCCESS OF YUGOSLAVIA'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES. TITO STATED THAT EVENTS OF THE PAST 30 YEARS HAVE PROVED YUGOSLAV POLICIES TO BE CORRECT AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 04670 01 OF 02 211244Z

LEAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE ALONG THE SAME LINES -- SELF-MANAGEMENT, INDEPENDENCE AND NON-ALIGNMENT. HE BOASTED OF YUGOSLAVIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS, BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL (THE NEW DELEGATE SYSTEM), AND OF THE COUNTRY'S REPUTATION AND RESPECT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S ADVICE IS SOUGHT BY MANY NATIONS.

4. WITHOUT MENTIONING US OR USSR BY NAME, HE MADE CLEAR YUGOSLAVIA'S INTENT TO CONTINUE ON AN INDEPENDENT PATH. HE DECRIED "IMPERIALISM, HEGEMONISM AND OTHER FORMS OF DOMINATION," AS WELL AS ANY AND ALL ATTEMPTS OF ONE COUNTRY TO IMPOSE ITS WILL ON OTHERS. CLEARLY REFERRING TO MOSCOW, HE CRITICIZED ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH "UNIVERSAL MODELS" OR "CENTERS" FOR LEADERSHIP OF THE WORKERS' MOVEMENT, BUT BALANCED THIS WITH A REFERENCE TO THOSE WHO WOULD USE "HUMAN RIGHTS" AS A JUSTIFICATION FOR INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES. FREQUENTLY IN CONCLUDING A SPECIFIC TOPIC HE ENDED WITH THE WORDS "WE WILL DO THE SAME IN THE FUTURE," A REMARK WHICH NEVER FAILED TO DRAW APPLAUSE FROM THE DELEGATES.

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04670 02 OF 02 211256Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 4670

5. ONE SEGMENT WHICH CANNOT HAVE GAILED TO DRAW SOVIET IRE
WAS KARDELJ'S LENGTHY EULOGY ON FILIP FILIPOVIC, FORMER FIRST
SECRETARY OF YUGOSLAV COMMUNIST PARTY WHO DIED IN THE STALIN
PURGES OF THE '30'S. TRUE, AS JUNE 21 IS CENTENARY OF
FILIPOVIC'S BIRTH, YUGOSLAVS HAD GOOD EXCUSE TO BRING HIM UP.
NEVERTHELESS THE ATTENTION DEVOTED TO HIM MUST HAVE SEEMED
EXCESSIVE TO SOVS.

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 04670 02 OF 02 211256Z

6. WHEN THE FULL TEXT OF TITO'S REPORT, WHICH HAS ALREADY
BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE DELEGATES, IS AVAILABLE WE WILL

REPORT ANY INTERESTING ASPECTS OF IT WHICH MIGHT NOT HAVE
BEEN INCLUDED IN THE ORAL DELIVERY.

7. "CONTINUITY" AND "STABILITY" IS THE THEME OF ALL PRESS
COVERAGE AND COMMENTARY ON THE CONGRESS AND CLEARLY THE
WATCHWORDS FOR THIS ELABORATE EVENT.
EAGLEBURGER

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